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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/554,563	10/25/2005	Andreas Nuding	407-379	6964

7590 02/13/2007
Mark P Stone
4th Floor
25 Third Street
Stamford, CT 06905

EXAMINER

JONES, DAVID B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3725

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/13/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

5/11

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/554,563	Applicant(s) NUDING ET AL.	
	Examiner David B. Jones	Art Unit 3725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) none is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/25/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Application does not contain an abstract of the disclosure on a separate sheet as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b). An abstract on a separate sheet is required.
2. The specification appears to be a product of translation from a foreign document and as such may contain verbiage that can be awkward and unclear; it has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation in correcting any errors or which applicant may become aware in the specification.
3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 1, lines 3/4, "the longitudinal direction of the lock" lacks clear antecedent basis. On lines 4 and 6 of claim 1, "in each case" is vague and renders the claim indefinite; it is not clear to what the applicant is referring. On line 7/8 of claim 1, "the circumference of the stud" lacks antecedent basis. On line 10/11 of claim 1, "the height of the stud" lacks antecedent basis. Finally on claim 1, line 11/12, "the inner width" lacks antecedent basis. In claims 2 and 3, "the distance between the retaining webs" and, "the width of the retaining webs and the retaining grooves" all lack antecedent basis. In claim 7, "the flanks of the retaining webs", "those side wall sections", and "the wedge angle" lack antecedent basis. Further in claim 7, "wedge shaped design" is vague and indefinite in scope. In claim 8, "the flanks of the stud and "the side walls of the recess" lack antecedent basis. Further "in each case" as

recited in claim 8 is vague and indefinite. In claim 9, "the depth of the retaining grooves" lacks antecedent basis. In claim 10, line 2, "the height of the retaining webs" lacks antecedent basis. Claim 11 suffers from deficiencies similar to that of claim 1. On line 7/8 of claim 11, "the circumference of the stud" lacks antecedent basis. In claim 16, "the longitudinal direction" lacks antecedent basis. In claim 17, "the distance between the retaining webs..." lacks antecedent basis. In claim 18, "the distance between the retaining webs" and "the width of the retaining webs" lack antecedent basis.

4. Claims 1-20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

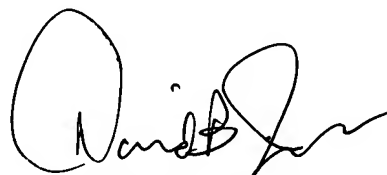
5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to David B. Jones whose telephone number is (703) 308-1887.

Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3700.

In the event that the Applicant (s) wishes to communicate via Fax number for Group 3700 is (703) 872-9306.

wahp

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Jones", with a large, stylized initial "D" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

DAVID B. JONES
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3725